



Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.

Journal Pre-proof

Reply to “COVID-19 and smoking: an opportunity to quit. . .when vaccinated!”

Esther Pastor Esplá, Carmen Castelló Faus, Ariana Jordá Baldó,
Ignacio Boira Enrique, Eusebi Chiner Vives



PII: S1579-2129(21)00394-3

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arbr.2021.10.019>

Reference: ARBR 2849

To appear in: *Archivos de Bronconeumología (English Edition)*

Received Date: 21 May 2021

Please cite this article as: { doi: <https://doi.org/>

This is a PDF file of an article that has undergone enhancements after acceptance, such as the addition of a cover page and metadata, and formatting for readability, but it is not yet the definitive version of record. This version will undergo additional copyediting, typesetting and review before it is published in its final form, but we are providing this version to give early visibility of the article. Please note that, during the production process, errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

© 2020 Published by Elsevier.

es
cor
ARBRES 2849
S0300-2896(21)00171-X
10.1016/j.arbres.2021.05.015
society 2021 SEPAR

Letter to the Editor

Respuesta a “COVID-19 y fumar: una oportunidad para dejar de fumar...cuando se vacunan”

Reply to “COVID-19 and smoking: an opportunity to quit....when vaccinated!”

AUTORES:

Esther Pastor Esplá ^a. epastorespla@gmail.com
Carmen Castelló Faus ^a. carmencafaus@gmail.com
Ariana Jordá Baldó ^b. ariana_jorda@hotmail.com
Ignacio Boira Enrique ^a. nachoboiranrique@hotmail.es
Eusebi Chiner Vives ^a. echinervives@gmail.com

^a Sección de Neumología. Hospital Universitario San Juan de Alicante. Alicante

^b Medicina Familiar y Comunitaria. Hospital Universitario Virgen del Puerto Plasencia
(Cáceres)

DIRECCIÓN PARA CORRESPONDENCIA:

Dra. Esther Pastor Esplá.
Sección de Neumología
Hospital Universitario San Juan de Alicante. Ctra. Alicante-Valencia s/n
03550 San Juan de Alicante
Correo electrónico: epastorespla@gmail.com

Número de palabras contenidas en el cuerpo principal del manuscrito: 343

Conflicto de intereses: Ninguno

To the Editor:

We would like to thank Dr. Rossato and colleagues for their comments on our paper “Tobacco and coronavirus: An opportunity to quit smoking”¹.

To date, no evidence is available to show that smokers are at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 infection (Covid-19); rather, there is evidence to suggest that both active and former smokers hospitalized for Covid-19 have more severe disease and a greater risk of death²⁻⁴.

As Rossato et al. rightly point out, several publications draw attention to the low proportion of active smokers among patients admitted for Covid-19. This has been confirmed in several series, and various explanations have been proposed. However, some studies do not specify whether the patient is an active or former smoker, and only a few differentiate former smokers from never smokers, with the result that many former smokers have been analyzed as never smokers. Furthermore, these data were self-reported, so some patients may have given an inaccurate picture of their habit. Finally, a patient’s smoking history may not be correctly documented in their clinical records. Our experience confirms these findings. Specifically, in our hospital, smoking history did not appear in the electronic medical records of 31% of the 178 patients admitted for Covid-19 between March and May 2020.

Studies that propose smoking as a possible “protective” factor raise it only as a hypothesis. The same article that Rossato et al. cite as an example of this possible “protective” effect in active smokers⁵ reports that these individuals are younger and have fewer comorbidities than former smokers, and suggests that this, and not their smoking habit, might explain the lower risk of hospitalization and death in this population. We believe that before we investigate the possible mechanisms that cause smoking to curtail the inflammatory response during Covid-19, this so-called “protective” effect should be confirmed in prospective and randomized studies.

In conclusion, then, we reiterate our previous conclusions, and we still firmly believe that there is not enough evidence to advise any unvaccinated patient to continue to smoke.

References

1. Rosato M, Di Vincenzo A, Vettor R. COVID-19 and smoking: an opportunity to quit...when vaccinated! Arch Bronconeumol 2021xxx
2. Patanavanich R, Glantz SA. Smoking is associated with COVID-19 progression: A meta-analysis. MedRxiv preprint 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.13.20063669>
3. Jiménez-Ruiz CA, López-Padilla D, Alonso-Arroyo A, Aleixandre-Benavent R,

- Solano-Reina S, De Granda-Orive JI. Fumador, exfumador y COVID-19: la nicotina no protege contra el SARS-CoV-2. Arch Bronconeumol. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arbres.2021.01.005>
4. Shastri MD, Shukla SD, Chong WC, KC R, Dua K, Patel Rp, et al. Smoking and COVID-19: What we know so far. Respiratory Medicine 2021;176:106237. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rmed.2020.106237>
 5. Puebla Neira D, Watts A, Seashore J, Polychronopoulou E, Kuo YF, Sharma G. Smoking and risk of COVID-19 hospitalization. Respir Med 2021;182:106414. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rmed.2021.106414>